

Some Coleoptera from The Noises Islands, Hauraki Gulf

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During late August, 1954, a limited amount of collecting was done, chiefly during a fortnight spent on Otata Island, the inhabited island of the Noises Group. The David Rocks (or Four Brothers), islets to the south-east of Otata, and the other main island, Motuhurakia, to the north of Otata, were also visited. One of the David Rocks was revisited on 3rd March, 1956.

The Noises group lies 15 miles to the north-east of Auckland in the Hauraki Gulf. Otata, a few acres in extent, is covered chiefly by low regenerating *Leptospermum* scrub and tussock dominated by *Phormium tenax*, a large portion of the island having been fairly recently burnt; the remainder is covered by typical Auckland coastal forest. Motuhurakia, slightly smaller, is completely covered by coastal forest in a fairly advanced stage of regeneration, while the remainder of the Noises group are little more than rocks, bearing a scanty, wind-swept vegetation of hardy coastal shrubs.

Family CARABIDAE.

Ctenognathus sp.

One specimen was recorded from Motuhurakia but the specimen was later unfortunately mislaid.

Family TROGOSITIDAE.

Leperina brounii Pasc.

Two specimens under bark of pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), Motuhurakia.

Phycosecis discoidea Pasc.

Common on sandy beach above H.W.M., Otata.

Family TENEBRIONIDAE.

Cilibe humeralis Bates.

Very common on the David Rocks under stones; also found on Otata and Motuhurakia. More active on second visit to the David Rocks, probably due to the season.

Lorelus sp.

Beaten from a shrub, Motuhurakia, two specimens.

Leiopeplus explitus Br.

Very common in rotten wood on Otata and Motuhurakia and under fallen branches and stones on the David Rocks.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

Navomorpha sulcatum Fabr.

One specimen beaten from flowering shrub, Motuhurakia.

Xyloteles lynceus Fabr.

Two specimens beaten from flowering shrubs, Motuhurakia.

Xyloteles griseus Fabr.

One specimen as above.

Xyloteles nanus Bates.

Four specimens as above; also two specimens from the David Rocks, March, 1956.

Xyloteles sp.

One specimen as above.

Family CURCULIONIDAE

Sub-family EUGNOMINAE

? *Hoplocneme* sp.

One specimen beaten from flowering shrub, Motuhurakia.

DISCUSSION.

It will be noted that two species, *Cilibe humeralis* and *Leiopeplus expositus*, are very common. Hudson ("New Zealand Beetles and Their Larvae," 1934) states that *C. humeralis* is "common under stones above high water mark on all the beaches around Wellington." My records indicate that it is also common on or near the sea shore in the vicinity of Auckland, especially on islands. *L. expositus* also appears to be a coastal insect but not as exclusively as *C. humeralis*. Situations for this species according to my observations, besides those above, are under bark of dead karaka (*Corynocarpus lacvigata*) and live puriri (*Vitex lucens*) trees, so it is obviously a more versatile insect than *C. humeralis*, which only occurs under stones. Both species are probably scavengers, feeding on decaying animal and vegetable matter. It would be interesting to study the feeding habits of the adults on the David Rocks, where vegetation is scanty and little soil is present and much competition for food appears probable. *Phycosecis discoidea* is common on most sandy beaches, feeding on decaying animal matter. The several species of *Xyloteles* are probably quite common on the Noises; they are phytophagous insects.

No doubt intensive collecting would yield many more species, but the majority of the common ones that are normally adults in early spring are probably contained in the species list above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to examine material of the above species in the Auckland Museum. A series of duplicates has been placed in the Museum collection.

APPENDIX.

Horuhoru, a small island just to the north of the eastern end of Waiheke Island, and E.S.E. of the David Rocks, was visited on 3rd March, 1956. This islet is only a little larger than the western islet of the David Rocks, but the vegetation has been modified by a large gannet colony, and consists mainly of stunted taupata (*Coprosma repens*). The following species were taken:

Family HISTERIDAE.

Abraeus sp.

Four specimens beaten from taupata.

Family TROGOSITIDAE.

Leperina brounii Pasc.

One specimen cut from dead taupata.

Family CRYPTOPHAGIDAE.

? Cryptophagus sp.

Eight specimens beaten from taupata. There are eleven specimens of this species in the C. E. Clarke Collection, Auckland Museum, from various localities near Auckland.

Family TENEBRIONIDAE.

Cilibe humeralis Bates.

Common under rocks. This species is often found with *Anisolabis littorea* (White), the large coastal earwig which is common on islands in the Hauraki Gulf.

Family CURCULIONIDAE.

Sub-family CRYPTORRHYNCHINAE.

Two species belonging to *Acalles* or a related genus beaten from taupata, one species very common.